GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:224
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000
PRIMARY EDUCATION
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the existing policy on primary education throughout the country in consultation with the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for non-implementation of the existing primary education policy by some States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.224 DATED 8.8.2000 ASKED BY SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY AND DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR REGARDING PRIMARY EDUCATION

(a) & (b) : The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 which is based on an in-depth review of the educational situation and a national consensus, enunciates a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in its entirety. The framework continues to be relevant.

The NPE provides for periodical review and appraisal of the implementation of its various parameters to ascertain the progress and trends emerging from time to time. The last such review was undertaken in 1992. A preliminary exercise for a fresh review has been initiated.

On the recommendations of a National Committee of Education Ministers under the Chairmanship of the Human Resource Development Minister (1999) to develop the structure and outlines of implementing universal elementary education in a mission mode, the Government proposes to launch the programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the current financial year. Several rounds of consultation has taken place with the states while formulating the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The proposed programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan provides for -

i) All 6-14 age children in school/EGS centre/bridge course by 2003
ii) All 6-14 children complete five years of primary education by 2007.
iii) All 6-14 children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.

The approach of the proposed SSA is community-owned and village education plans prepared in consultation with Panchayati Raj Institutions will form the basis of District Elementary Education Plans. There will be a focus on districts having low female literacy among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will cover the entire country with a special focus on educational needs of girls, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is likely to be operationalised in the current Financial Year.

(c) All states were expected to implement the National Policy on Education and its Programme of Action. Efforts have been made in all the states and considerable progress has been achieved in universalising elementary education. As a result of these efforts more than 70% children in the 6-14 age group are attending schools and the literacy rate in 1997 had reached 62%. The community owned

initiative of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will give a further impetus to the efforts.